

CLAIMS:

1. Conditional access system for controlling the access of receivers of end-users to data transmitted from a data content source in an uplink system, said uplink system comprising a scrambler for scrambling the content supplied from the content source, an entitlement control message generator for generating entitlement control messages containing a control word and an entitlement identification, and a transmitter for transmitting the scrambled content and the entitlement control messages, in which access system a descrambler, an entitlement control message decoder and means for storing entitlements are associated to the receiver, and in which access system if a match between the entitlement identification in the entitlement control message and the entitlement of the end-user exists, the entitlement control message decoder supplies a control word to the descrambler for descrambling a part of the received scrambled content for which the receiver is entitled, characterized in that the receiver side is provided with means for receiving and storing a meta-entitlement of the end-user, said meta-entitlement including an event number range, and means for extracting from the meta-entitlement an actual entitlement identification including the event selected by the end-user,

5 after which a control word from the entitlement control message is supplied to the descrambler if the entitlement identification in the entitlement control message matches the actual entitlement.

10

15

2. Conditional access system according to claim 1, in which the uplink system comprises a generator and transmitter for generating and transmitting an entitlement management message, characterized in that the meta-entitlement is transmitted in an entitlement management message to the entitled receiver.

20

25

3. Conditional access system according to claim 1, characterized in that the actual entitlement is extracted from both the meta-entitlement and the entitlement control message.

4. Conditional access system according to claim 1, characterized in that the meta-entitlement includes a date range.

SEARCHED
INDEXED
FILED
SERIALIZED
COPIED

5. Conditional access system according to claim 1, characterized in that the meta-entitlement includes a number of allowed selections.

6. Conditional access system according to claim 5, characterized in that at the receiver side a selection counter is provided, which is set to the number of allowed selections in the meta-entitlement in the entitlement management message upon reception of said message and is decremented by each event selection by the end-user.

7. Uplink system suitable for a conditional access system according to claim 1, comprising a scrambler for scrambling the content supplied from the content source, an entitlement control message generator for generating entitlement control messages containing a control word and an entitlement identification, and a transmitter for transmitting the scrambled content and the entitlement control messages, wherein an event number generator is connected to the entitlement control message generator.

8. Receiver suitable for a conditional access system according to claim 1, comprising a descrambler, an entitlement control message decoder and means for storing entitlements, wherein means are provided for receiving and storing a meta-entitlement of the end-user, said meta-entitlement including an event number range, and further means for extracting from the meta-entitlement an actual entitlement identification including the event selected by the end-user, after which a control word from the entitlement control message is supplied to the descrambler if the entitlement identification in the entitlement control message matches the actual entitlement.

DEUTSCHE
PATENT-
UND
MARKEN
OFFICE